

D. REMARKS

This amendment has been timely filed within the time limits for reply under the Certificate of Mailing procedure established by 37 C.F.R. § 1.8. Care has been taken to comply with the latest amendment form requirements per 37 C.F.R. 1.121, March, 2003.

Claims 1-3 were allowed in the Official Office Action. Claim 4 (Currently Amended) has been amended by adding the text of Claim 6, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten. Thus claim 4 should be allowed. Claim 5 remains the same, but should be allowable as it depends from claim 4, which, as modified, should be allowed. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claim 7 (Currently Amended) should be allowable as it depends from claim 4, which, as modified, should be allowed. Claim 8 (Currently Amended) has been corrected with respect to the 35 USC § 112 problem mentioned by the Examiner. It should therefore be allowed, as it was indicated as being allowable if corrected per § 112.

Amendments to the drawing figures are presented in the enclosed replacement figures which include the desired changes, without markings. Also enclosed is a separate letter to the chief draftsman showing red ink changes. Reference numeral 54 of Fig. 2 is directed to the proper part. In Fig. 8 reference numeral 129 is corrected and 127 is added. Acceptance of the amended drawings is earnestly solicited.

Concluding, a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING - 37 C.F.R. SEC. 1.8

The undersigned registered practitioner hereby certifies that the attached amendment and all appurtenant enclosures, if any, is/are being deposited in the U.S. Postal Service via First Class Mail postage pre-paid, in an envelope properly addressed Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, MAIL STOP Non fee Amendment: P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on Wednesday, July 21, 2004.



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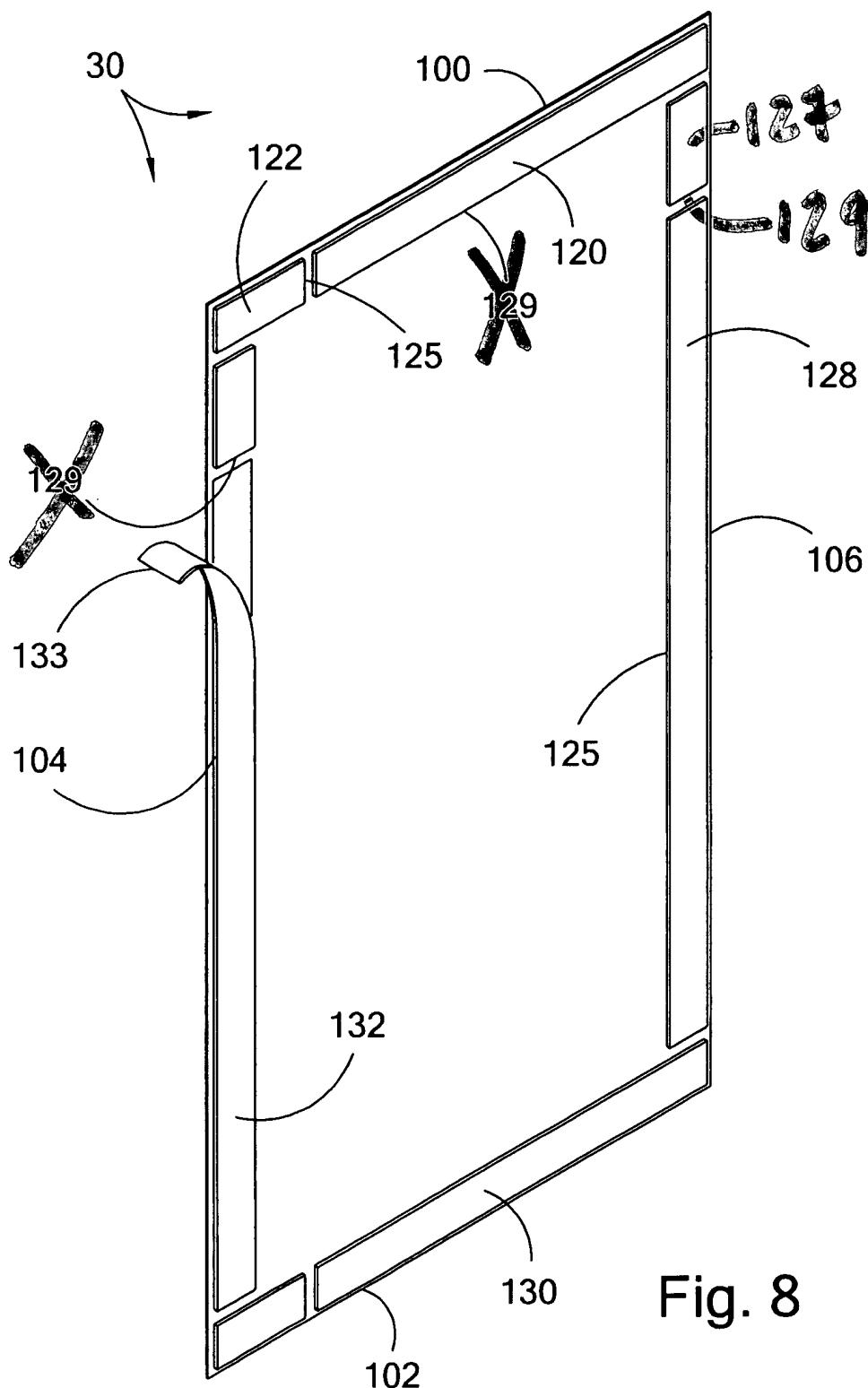


Fig. 8

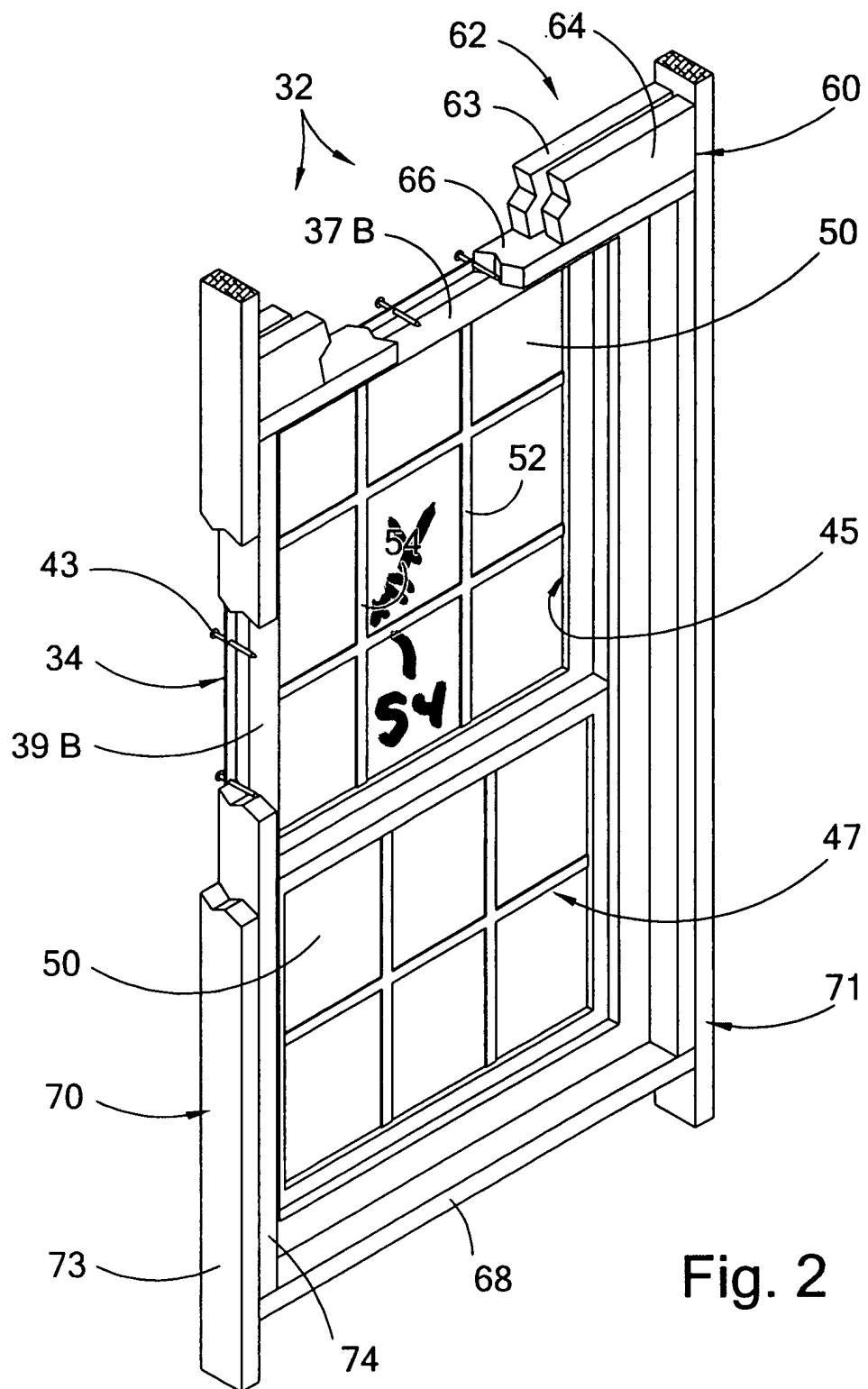


Fig. 2